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LETTER DATED 21 APRIL 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that United States Air Force flights continue to violate Iraqi airspace, as follows:

First:

1. On 16 April 1991:

(a) United States air activity in Iraqi airspace totalled 72 sorties flown by 35 formations and 2 single aircraft.

(b) Altitudes ranged between 5,000 and 8,000 metres, and the speed was between 600 and 720 kilometres per hour.

(c) The aircraft were identified as F-14s and F-15s.

(d) The flights focused on the areas of Baghdad, Kirkuk, Kut, Ramadi and Karbala', and their purpose was surveillance and provocation.

2. On 17 April 1991:

(a) United States air activity in Iraqi airspace totalled 67 sorties flown by 33 formations.

(b) Altitudes ranged between 5,000 and 8,000 metres, and the average speed was 750 kilometres per hour.

(c) The aircraft were identified as F-14s and F-15s.

(d) The flights focused on the areas of Baghdad, Kut, Hashimiyah, Ramadi and Samawah, and their purpose was reconnaissance, surveillance and provocation.

3. On 18 April 1991:

(a) United States air activity in Iraqi airspace totalled 80 sorties flown by 38 formations.

(b) Altitudes ranged between 4,000 and 8,000 metres, and the average speed was 750 kilometres per hour.

(c) The aircraft were identified as F-14s and F-15s.

(d) The flights focused on the areas of Baghdad, Suwayrah, Hashimiyah and Samawah and the area north of Razzazah, and their purpose was reconnaissance, surveillance and provocation.

Second:

1. On 19/20 April 1991, the number of American/Saudi sorties totalled 92 flown by 46 formations. Altitudes ranged between 4,000 and 8,000 metres, and the speed ranged between 800 and 1,000 kilometres per hour. The flights focused on the areas of Baghdad, Diyala, Suwayrah, Kut, Karbala', Tikrit and Razzazah, and their purpose was surveillance and provocation. The aircraft were identified as F-14s and F-15s.

2. At 1405 hours on 19 April 1991, an American formation consisting of two aircraft flying at an altitude of 7,000 metres and at a speed of 720 kilometres per hour penetrated 2 to 10 kilometres inside Iranian airspace and travelled over a distance of 50 kilometres from the area south of Mandali to the area of Qasr-e-Shirin.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdul Amir A. AL-ANBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative